



# Alaska Scenic Byways Program News

April 2005

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## In this issue:

- North Richardson Highway Scenic Byway Dedication
- Interpretive Panels to be installed in Palmer by the Glenn Highway Byway Group
- Alaska Marine Highway Nominated for All-American Road Award
- KMTA-CCA completes multiple projects on the Seward and Sterling Scenic Byways
- Upcoming Events

## North Richardson Highway Scenic Byway Dedication

Celebrations were held on March 17th at Fort Greely, North Pole and Fairbanks in honor of the designation of the Northern Richardson Highway as an Alaska Scenic Byway.

The Lieutenant Governor Loren Leman and Deputy Commissioner John MacKinnon attended each ceremony and presented awards to the Fort Greely Post Commander and the Mayors of Delta Junction, North Pole, City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.



Northern Richardson Highway Scenic Byway Ribbon Cutting at Fort Greely. Deputy Commissioner John MacKinnon, Carl Ekstrom, Lt. Governor Loren Leman, LTC Cornelius, Andrew Niemiec. Photo credit: Shannon McCarthy, ADOT&PF.

The Northern Richardson Highway, between Fort Greely and Fairbanks, was designated a Scenic Byway by Commissioner Mike Barton of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in recognition of the highways unique recreational, historical, natural and archeological qualities.

Lieutenant Governor Leman said, "The Alaska Scenic Byways program recognizes outstanding transportation corridors to access Alaska's rich resources as well as its beauty, cultural and recreational areas. This designation will potentially increase economic opportunities and tourism to communities along the route."

The first organizational meeting for the Northern Richardson Scenic Byway Association was held on

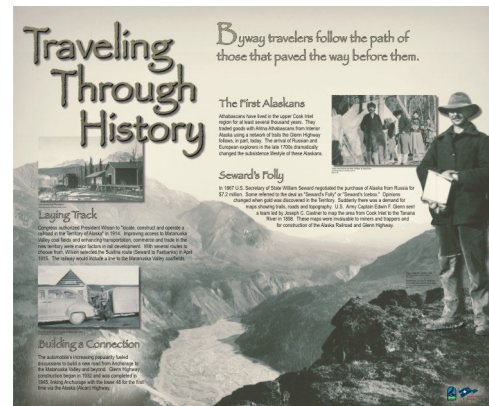
March 18th in Glennallen. Persons interested in participating in the byway organization for the Northern Richardson Highway Scenic Byway should contact Carl Ekstrom at 895-4938, ext 268.

## Interpretive Panels to be installed in Palmer by the Glenn Highway Byway Group

The Glenn Highway National Scenic Byway Partnership Board will hold a dedication ceremony to unveil new interpretive panels that will be installed in the South Palmer Station at the Fairgrounds in Palmer.

The interpretive panels were funded with a National Scenic Byways grant and were prepared by the Interpretation and Education Program of the Department of Natural Resources. The panels will provide interpretive information about the scenery, culture and history of the Glenn Highway.

The ceremony will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the South Palmer Station at the Fairgrounds in Palmer. For additional information contact Deborah Rinckey at 907-862-0319.



An example of the interpretive panels prepared by DNR for the Glenn Highway Byway Partnership Board.

## Alaska Marine Highway Nominated for All-American Road Award

On April 8<sup>th</sup> the Alaska Marine Highway Byway Steering Committee and the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities nominated the Alaska Marine Highway for designation as an All-American Road. The Alaska Marine Highway was designated a National Scenic Byway in 2002.

The All-American Road award is the most prestigious designation that the U.S. Secretary of Transportation can confer upon a transportation corridor. The benefits of an All-American Road designation include promotion of the transportation corridor by the Federal Highway Administration nationally and internationally, improved eligibility for federal grant funds, and the development of new partnerships by communities and businesses working toward common goals.

Currently there are only 21 All-American Roads in the country. The Seward Highway was designated an All-American Road in 2000.

A decision by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation is expected in September.

## KMTA-CCA completes projects on the Seward and Sterling Scenic Byways



Cooper Landing Historical Society Museum

The Kenai Mountain Turnagain Arms Communities Corridor Association (KMTA-CCA) recently completed multiple projects on the Seward and Sterling Highways that were funded by the National Scenic Byways program.

Projects completed under this grant include developing a landscaped rest area and interpretive sign in Moose Pass, constructing restroom and other amenities at the Seward Kawabe Park, restoration of a historic building at the Hope Museum complex, and the relocation of several historic buildings to be used as interpretive centers in Cooper Landing.

The project also funded the compilation of historical information for the area and the development of several publications including Trails Across Time by Kaylene Johnson and People of the Kenai Mountains and Upper Turnagain Arm by Sharon Bushell.

For more information please contact Jim Richardson, KMTA-CCA President, 907-274-4760.

## Upcoming Events

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|------------------------------|---|
| April 19, 2005<br>7:00 p.m.  | <b>Glenn Highway Scenic Byway Partnership Board Meeting</b><br>Palmer Library, Palmer<br>For information contact: Deborah Rinckey, 907-862-0319         |
| April 25, 2005<br>10:00 a.m. | <b>Richardson Highway Scenic Byway Association Meeting</b><br>Caribou Inn, Glennallen<br>For information contact: Carl Ekstrom, 907-895-4938 Ext. 268   |
| June 10, 2005<br>3:00 p.m.   | <b>South Palmer Station Dedication of Interpretive Panels</b><br>South Palmer Station, Palmer<br>For information contact: Deborah Rinckey, 907-862-0319 |
| October 16-19, 2005          | <b>2005 National Scenic Byways Conference</b><br>Cleveland, Ohio<br>For information contact: <a href="mailto:center@byways.org">center@byways.org</a>   |

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For more information about the Byways program or to be taken off the Newsletter distribution list, please contact:

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